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SUBJECT: GOI THOUGHTS ON ENERGY SECURITY IN ADVANCE OF THE
JANUARY EU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

REF: A. STATE 05640

[1](#)B. 06 ROME 3379

[1](#)1. (U) On January 19, Econoff delivered ref A talking points on energy security to Gianni Manfredi, the Italian MFA official responsible for energy issues. Manfredi said the GOI agrees with the "general thrust" of the EU energy policy released January 10, but noted the need for further work on parts of the policy, including those related to relations with energy suppliers. He stressed the need for uniformity in EU member states' regulation of their energy sectors and said the GOI supports renewable sources of energy, as long as they are competitive and avoid subsidies.

[1](#)2. (U) Manfredi reiterated the GOI position reported Ref B, that energy security should be focused on the long-term, and that security implies diversification, in both sources of energy and geographic locations. He noted that while countries like Azerbaijan are appealing sources of oil and gas, purchasing agreements with them can be complex, as EU member states feel they need to offer "a complete package" of development aid to ensure that countries have the capacity to invest their energy revenues wisely.

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